Chapter. 103

Visitor ②

He came to visit the night Ojii-chan was hospitalized.
This man calling himself their father
talked and talked in a well-projected voice...
WHEW,
THIS PLACE SURE TAKES ME BACK.
THIS HOUSE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.
IT REALLY HAS A SORT OF CALMING FEEL TO IT...

ANYHOW, MOMO,
COME 'ERE.
LOOKS LIKE WE FINALLY GET TO MEET, HUH?
HOW ABOUT YOU LET ME HOLD YOU?
COME ON.
SFX: GYUH... (SQUEEZE)
DAD?
ぎゅっ...

HINA-CHAN, IT'S 7 O'CLOCK ALREADY.
DON'T YOU THINK MOMO-CHAN'S GETTING HUNGRY?
MOMO-CHAN, I BOUGHT SOME CORN CREAM CROQUETTES FOR YOU!
Corn cream ?!
YUMMY
YOU LIKE THAT, DON'T YOU?
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE GOT MOMO-CHAN HER DINNER FIRST.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AH... YEAH!! I AGREE. LET'S DO THAT.
C'MON, MOMO.
HOW 'BOUT WE GO EAT DINNER OVER THERE?
OKAY!

Hina-chan, where is Akari Onei-chan?
SHE'LL BE BACK SOON, DON'T WORRY.
SFX: PARAN
...ARE YOU
THE TYPE THAT GETS TOLD THEY CAN'T READ BETWEEN THE LINES A LOT?
LET ME SEE...
WELL,
REGARDLESS OF READING BETWEEN LINES...
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE HERE TODAY?
HAHAH!
YEP, YOU SURE CAN'T.
THAT REALLY SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D SAY.
I FEEL KINDA BAD.
WELL, I'M THEIR FATHER, YOU KNOW?

THEIR FATHER... I SEE.
HOW-EVER
I HEARD THEIR PARENTS WERE DIVORCED.
AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU EXACTLY?
ALSO, EVEN IF HE'S DIVORCED, A FATHER IS STILL A FATHER.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH ME COMING TO SEE THEM?
He has a point...
Normally, seeing as I'm not part of the family, I really shouldn't be butting in like this...
— But
WELL, I CAN THINK OF A FEW REASONS. SO JUST TO MAKE SURE...
HEY, HEY, WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY?
I CERTAINLY DON'T KNOW YOU.
THIS IS QUITE A SURPRISE.

'Stay by Hina and Momo's side.'

'Please.'

— Even I can tell

that this isn't a normal situation.

But anyhow, the thing here
WELL, YOU'VE GOT ME.
ARE ALL YOUTHS THESE DAYS LIKE THIS?
that's most disconcerting is that smile.
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH FOR WHEN YOU GET OUT INTO THE WORK WORLD ACTING LIKE THAT.
WELL,
IT'LL BE TOUGH FOR YOU, TOO, BUT I FEEL WORSE FOR THE PEOPLE WORKING WITH YOU.
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?
I met the Kawamoto family in the winter when I was 16.
That was 2 and a half years ago,
and this father has never come up once in conversation.
Also he said 'We finally meet' before.
To the 5 year-old Momo-chan.
Which means, he's never once met her.

Why would somebody who hasn't visited in so long

suddenly appear right when Ojii-chan was hospitalized?

The fact that he's just sitting here in the living room acting all cheery and friendly

— makes my discomfort go off the charts.

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, HASN'T IT, AKARI?
ONEI-CHAN...
SFX: DATAH ZUSUUUH
THANK YOU, HINA.
YOU FED MOMO, DID YOU?
KIRIYAMA-KUN SAID 'GIVE MOMO HER DINNER FIRST'.
I SEE.
I'M SO GLAD KIRYAMA-KUN CAME.
HEY...
WHY DID DAD COME?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?
NONE AT ALL.
BUT
I'LL TALK TO HIM, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO EAT DINNER WITH MOMO UPSTAIRS?

WELL, I'LL CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE!!
I'M AKARI, SORRY FOR ALL THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED YOU IN THE PAST.
BUT EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW.
LET'S ALL LIVE HERE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY AGAIN!!
.....
TOGETHER ...?
corn! corn! cream!

—BUT DESPITE THAT, I
HONESTLY WANT TO LIVE WITH YOU BUT...
I KNOW IT WILL BE AWKWARD AT FIRST.
I DON'T FORGIVE HIM
OF COURSE THEY'D BE LIVING WITH US
AND THEY'RE FINALLY COMFORTED
YES. ABSOLUTELY.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
—BUT
I CAN ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'D BE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT ALL THIS.
I MEAN, YOUR FAMILY WOULD BE LIVING IN A SUBURB
AND OF COURSE IT WON'T BE QUITE COMFORTING

I DON'T MIND IF YOU ALL MOVE TO SEI-CHAN'S SHOP FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
BUT IF YOU'RE ANYONE'S ABOUT IT...
— AND WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME.
TO ALL BE ABLE TO BEAR TOGETHER!
SEI-CHAN'S HOUSE...?
YAY!!
YOU'RE OKAY WITH US SUDDENLY BEING ABLE TO BEAR TOGETHER?
WILL YOU'LL ALSO JUST KEEP DOING THE PAST WE HAVE BEEN...
HOLD ON A MINUTE!
DON'T YOU ALL BE AWKWARD?
YAY!!
THAT'S LIKE
ARE YOU SURE IT'S

SEIICHIROU-SAN!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
SISTER-IN-LAW
DO YOU STILL NEED YOUR AUNT AROUND TO DECIDE ANYTHING?
YOU'RE REALLY STILL JUST A GIRL, AREN'T YOU?

I'M DECIDING HERE.
I'M SORRY, SEIJIROU-SAN.
'IF DAD COMES, CALL ME BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE.'
— THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THAT PROMISE,
AKARI.
AND THANK YOU, KIRIYAMA-KUN!!
.....
NO PROB-LEM.
WHEW.

GIVEN THE LOOK ON MY SISTER-IN-LAW'S FACE,
I DON'T THINK SHE'S GOING TO A LISTEN TO A WORD I SAY.
—— WE'LL GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS FOR TODAY.
WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN LATER.
OH WELL...
AHHH,
AND HERE I'D THOUGHT WE'D GET OUR FIRST TALK AS A FAMILY WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.
TOO BAD.

—WELL,
AKARI,
SAY GOODBYE TO HINA AND MOMO FOR ME, OKAY?
—I'LL BE BACK LATER. ♡
Chapter 103 END

HI WA MATA NOBORU

THE SUN WILL RISE AGAIN

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 10

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